

Editorial

David Ožura, Editor of the journal *Onkologija* and Head of the Special Library of Oncology

This year marks 27 years since the medical-scientific journal *Onkologija* saw the light of day for the first time. To mark the journal's 20th anniversary, a new editorial team and a new editorial board took over the management of Slovenia's leading journal of oncology in 2017. Vaneja Velenik was appointed Editor-in-Chief, Jasna But Hadžič and Vesna Zadnik as editors. David Ožura, who initially held the position of Technical Editor, was appointed Editor in 2022. Prominent clinicians and researchers from the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana were appointed members of the new editorial board and ambassadors of the journal.

The founder and publisher of the journal is the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana. It is published biannually in June and December. The journal publishes original scientific and review articles, clinical case reports and clinical guidelines in Slovenian. The titles, abstracts and keywords are translated into English. The journal is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal. Peer reviewers are carefully selected by the editors for their objectivity and scientific knowledge to provide a written assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the written research, to comment on any ethical concerns raised by the study, to make useful suggestions to the author for improving the manuscript, and to detect and prevent research misconduct, including checking manuscripts for plagiarism, manipulation of citations, and falsification of data. In recognising and dealing with allegations of scientific misconduct, the journal, editors and reviewers adhere to the COPE guidelines. The journal's editors and editorial board act in accordance with the applicable guidelines and recommendations issued by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME).

The editorial team has continued the core mission of its predecessors¹: to publish peer-reviewed articles on a regular basis so that physicians can receive up-to-date information as quickly as possible and keep abreast of important developments in the field, especially those they must be familiar with in order to practice their work². At the same time, it has set itself some new tasks: a modern redesign of the printed and online versions of the journal, the open access publication of research results in line with the

principles of open science, securing additional (co-)funding for the publication of the journal and the inclusion/indexing of the journal in international bibliographic databases.

In 2017, the visual identity of the journal was redesigned, followed a year later by the redesign of the journal's website (<https://revija-onkologija.si>), which describes in detail the purpose and objectives of the journal, the peer review process, the editorial policy, the ethical standards and the instructions for authors on how to prepare and submit articles. The editorial policy of the journal follows the recommendations and standards of the International Conference of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME). All articles undergo a double-blind external peer review process prior to publication.

The editorial team of the journal follow the recommendations and requirements of Slovenian and European research policy regarding the production of scientific publications and research data³. The journal *Onkologija* has recently started using the Open Journal System (OJS) for its editorial work and open access publishing. The journal is designed as an open access journal and is published under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution CC-BY 4.0 licence (acknowledgement of authorship). Articles are freely accessible on the journal's website from the date of publication and are permanently available in the Digital Repository of Slovenian Research Organisations (DIRROS) and the Digital Library of Slovenia (dLib.si). Each article is assigned a DOI, an alphanumeric identifier in the international system for identifying electronic publications and their components. By publishing the full texts, the journal promotes open access to research and the global exchange of knowledge. The publication of the journal in Slovenian has played an important role in the development and enrichment of Slovenian medical terminology. The colophon, table of contents, article titles, abstracts and keywords have been translated into English. The journal also supports open access to research data – storage of data in a repository and open access where possible and closed access where necessary to research data via the repository.

¹The former Editors-in-Chief of the journal *Onkologija* were Prof. Rastko Goluh (1997–2001), Prof. Zvonimir Rudolf (2002–2009), Prof. Marjetka Uršič Vrščaj (2009–2012) and Prof. Zvonimir Rudolf (2012–2016), the former editors of the journal were Prof. Matej Bračko (1997–2001), Prof. Margareta Strojan Fležar (2002–2003), Prof. Marjetka Uršič Vrščaj (2004–2009) and Prof. Zvonimir Rudolf (2009–2012).

²Goluh R. Editorial. *Onkologija* 1997; 1(1): 3.

³The Slovenian provisions on open science are in line with those of the European Commission, i.e. the European Research Area (ERA), and include in particular immediate open access to research results, responsible evaluation of research work in accordance with the principles of open science, and the involvement of the interested public in scientific research work. The principles of open science are included in Chapter 6 of the Resolution on the Scientific Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia 2030 (ReZrIS30) and in the Act on Scientific Research and Innovation Activities (ZZrID). The implementation and establishment of the open science ecosystem is further specified in the Regulation on the Conduct of Scientific Research in accordance with the principles of open science and in the Open Science Action Plan.

⁴Article 42 of the ZZrIDa stipulates that scientific journals of publishers established in the Republic of Slovenia and abroad, which contain peer-reviewed articles and whose publication is fully financed from state sources, must provide open access to their content.

The publication of the journal has been financially supported by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS)⁴ since 2019. Publication of the journal is also financed by advertising. Advertisements in the journal are not bound by editorial decisions and are separate from the published content.

The editorial team has also set itself the goal of including the journal in the most important international bibliographic databases. Some of these bibliographic databases also contain citation indexes, which are used as a quantitative measure of scientific and professional performance.

- **Directory of Open Access Journals:** In early 2019, the journal's Editors received a positive response regarding the journal's inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), an international database of peer-reviewed open-access scientific journals. According to the ARIS methodology, the journal *Onkologija* is now included in the BIBLIO-A list, and the publication of a scientific paper in it is classified in category C (journals included in international databases).
- **The database Emerging Sources Citation Index: Clarivate Analytics,** which maintains the Web of Science information service, added the journal *Onkologija* to the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) in September 2019. ESCI is part of the Web of Science Core Collection and contains bibliographic data with abstracts of journal articles of local interest and emerging scientific fields.
- **Directory of Open Access Journals Seal:** *Onkologija* is the second Slovenian journal to receive the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ Seal). It was awarded the seal in summer 2020. The seal is awarded to journals that adhere to best practices in open access publishing. To be awarded the seal, a journal's editorial policy must meet the conditions of accessibility, openness, findability, permanent storage, re-use, and authors' rights. Thereby, the journal *Onkologija* fulfills the requirements of the national strategy of the Republic of Slovenia on open access to scientific publications and research data, and follows Plan S, which is coordinated by Science Europe and adopted by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency.
- **Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature database:** In 2020, the journal began to be indexed by the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), which is regularly maintained by EBSCO Information Services. CINAHL is the largest and most important collection of professional and scientific journals in the field of healthcare and related sciences.
- **Journal Citation Indicator:** In June 2023, the journal *Onkologija* received the Journal Citation Indicator (JCI) for 2022, the journal's new citation indicator. The new normalisation metric uses three important aspects, namely the field of research, the type/typology of the work, and the year of publication. This new approach provides easier interpretation and comparison, and complements previous journal metrics. The JCI index is calculated for all journals in the Web of Science Core Collection (SCIE, SSCI, ESCI, and AHCI databases).
- **Journal Impact Factor:** In June 2023, the journal also received the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) for the first time in the 2022 edition of the Journal Citation Report.

Since 2017, the journal has published 23 original scientific articles, 6 short scientific articles, 50 scientific/professional review articles, 8 case reports and 30 clinical guidelines.

The journal has a print run of 4,000 copies.

In 2024, the International Editorial Board will join the journal's existing editors and editorial board. Its role is to advise on topics and provide feedback on already published issues, assist in the recruitment of reviewers, suggest potential authors, and help develop the medium- and long-term strategy of the Slovenian Journal of Oncology.

The members of the International Editorial Board are:

- Prof. Dr. Ervin Alibegović, MD, Head of the Sector for Scientific Research Work and Education, University Clinical Center Tuzla, Ulica Prof. Dr. Ibri Pašića, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Marija Gamulin, MD, Head of Department of Clinical Oncology, University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Šalata 2, 10000, Zagreb, Croatia, and University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Department of Oncology, Unit for Uro-Oncology, Ulica Mije Kišpatića 12, Zagreb, Croatia
- Prof. Dr. Gabriele Grassi, MD, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Health Sciences, Cattinara University Hospital, Trieste University, Strada di Fiume 447, Trieste, Italy
- Prof. Dr. Marko Jakopović, MD, Head of the Thoracic Oncology Unit, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Ulica Mije Kišpatića 12, Zagreb, Croatia, and the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Šalata 2, 10000, Zagreb, Croatia
- Dr. Angel Montero, MD, Radiation oncologist in the Radiation Oncology Department, Clara Campal Integral Oncology Center, Comprehensive Medical Center, HM University Hospital Sanchinarro, C. de Oña, 10, Hortaleza, Madrid, Spain

(This editorial is a translation of the Slovenian original, which we published in the previous issue of the journal in December 2023. We have added some content that also appeals to international readership.)